

Where do you sit in the class? Put an 'X' on the place you normally sit.



E.g. X			

### *Does where you sit in class matter?*

We all know the stereotype - good students sit up front listening clearly and asking questions while the bad students sit in the back messing around or taking a snooze. But does it really matter where you sit in class? Does sitting in the front help improve academic performance or is this simply an educational myth that cannot be backed up by proof? Researchers say it does matter for more reasons than one. Let's look at a few reasons why sitting in the front or back of the class can have an impact on your grade.

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Studies show that students stop engaging in active listening after about 30 minutes. In most lecture heavy courses this is just about the time when the professor is getting to his or her most important points. Researchers from Harvard University found that students sitting at or near the front of the class were able to focus longer and retain more information because they stayed engaged longer.

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Building a relationship with your professor is important. Sitting near the front gives you much easier access to your professor and increases the chance that your professor will speak to you. While some argue that where you sit does not make a difference, it cannot be argued that teacher/student rapport does have an impact on academic performance.

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_

While this is not true in all cases, some teachers view students who sit in the back as slackers. However, students who sit at the front may be viewed as more responsible, academically interested and more prepared.

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_

It is unfair to say that sitting in front will make you a good student and sitting in the back will result in poor performance. There have been plenty of students up front who

have performed poorly and many students who have sat in the back yet passed the class. Researchers stress that class seat is not nearly as important as learning the material.

## 5. \_\_\_\_\_

There are several factors that influence where students sit. Many shy students who may be very strong academically prefer to sit near the back because they fear speaking up in class. Other reasons include being late to class, eyesight, and where friends sit. While the research is still in its early form, one thing is clear. Students who sit at or near the front of the class tend to do better than their peers that sit near the back.

Where do you sit in class and why? Do you think seat selection has a major influence on course performance?

Taken and adapted from: <http://brainmass.com/blog/in-class/sit-class-matter/>

### Match the header to the paragraph

- A. What Affects Where Students Sit in Class?
- B. Attentiveness in Class
- C. Does Sitting Up Front Guarantee Success?
- D. Teacher Perception
- E. Teacher-Student Rapport
- F. Good students sit up front

1	2	3	4	5
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1. What do some students do at the back of the class? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. How many reasons are given to sit at the front of the class? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. How long can students listen to a lecture before losing interest? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Why is student-teacher rapport important? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. From some teachers point of view, what is the difference between students who sit at the back and students who sit at the front? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Will you be successful if you sit at the front? Why/why not? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Do students who sit at the back always fail? Do students who sit at the front always pass? Why/why not? \_\_\_\_\_
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